

June 23, 2016 3:00 PM EST
St. Patrick's County Park- Harvest Room
50651 Laurel Road
South Bend, IN 46637

Attendance

Board Members Present:

All-Terrain Vehicle Users- Tim Garrett
Bicyclists- Jessica Hall
Environmental Groups- Kevin Hardie
Four Wheel Drive Users- Ryan Sweany
Health/Higher Education- Joan Cook
Hikers- Tim Calahan
Mountain Bikers- Jeff Fetterer
Parks and Recreation Agencies- Melody Jones
Pedestrians- Pat Martin
Snowmobilers- Len Neisler
Trail Support Groups- Angie Pool
Users with Disabilities- David Meihls
Water Trail Users- Joe Dits (Proxy)

Board Members Not Present

Equestrians- Jennifer Wilson Reagan
Off-Road Motorcyclists- Rick Dorfmeier

DNR Staff:

Bob Bronson- Outdoor Recreation
Amy Marisavljevic- Outdoor Recreation

Guests:

Steve Cline
Chris Garrett
Rayce Guthrie- ABATE
Rob Hall
Jaime Hartzke- St. Joseph County Parks
Allan Horn- Friends of the White River
Jay Jackson- ABATE
Evie Kirkwood- St. Joseph County Parks
Brandy Meihls
Dorothy Neisler
Donald Sporleder- TAB Emeritus
JoAnn Sporleder
Marlo Sweany

Meeting Minutes

Welcome

Jeff Fetterer welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:19 PM. He thanked Kevin Hardie for organizing the paddle on the St. Joseph River and the meeting location.

Introductions

All Trails Advisory Board (TAB) members and guests introduced themselves. Joseph Rozsahegyi gave his proxy to Joe Dits. Evie Kirkwood, St. Joseph County Parks Director, welcomed everyone to St. Patrick's County Park with a short overview of the park's history and amenities.

Approval of the Agenda

Fetterer asked for a motion to approve the agenda unless there were any changes. Joan Cook made a motion and Tim Garrett seconded. Motion passed.

Review and Approval of March 3, 2016 Minutes

Fetterer asked if the TAB members had a chance to review the minutes and asked for any changes. No changes were suggested. He then asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Melody Jones made a motion and Ryan Sweany seconded. Motion passed.

DNR Report

New Trail Finder

Amy Marisavljevic announced that DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation launched the Indiana Trail Finder in early June in conjunction with National Trails Day (NTD). The Indiana Trail Finder is similar to the Indiana Trails Inventory, but more user friendly with a variety of helpful tools. It works on any device with a web browser and does not require a separate app be downloaded. Marisavljevic recommends bookmarking it for easy access. You can find it at: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/2604.htm>

Motorized Recreation News

Marisavljevic reported that on July 1 a number of changes will take place at the DNR motorized properties. Interlake State Recreation Area (SRA) will open its gatehouse and begin collecting fees. An Annual Out-Of-State Motorized Trail Use Permit will also go into effect. It is a \$20 decal that will allow non-registered out-of-state ORV riders to use the trails on DNR properties without a registration. Finally, the new Annual Motorized Trail Permits will also start to be accepted. The \$75 pass will provide the user unlimited entries into both motorized properties; however it is only good for one vehicle per visit. The new cards are valid until Dec. 31, 2017. Both permits can be purchased at Redbird SRA, Interlake SRA, and through the DNR Customer Service Center.

Marisavljevic also stated that Redbird SRA is now open seven days a week. The assistant manager there will retire in July. Lastly, the DNR will explore new legislation during the 2017 Legislative Sessions that would require the titling of new snowmobiles. This will make snowmobiles more uniform with current ORV regulations.

Other Division of Outdoor Recreation News

Marisavljevic stated that the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), which includes the new State Trails Plan chapter, has been published. Hardcopies and CDs are available and the TAB is encouraged to take a copy. Additionally, the SCORP is available as PDF online at: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/4201.htm>. Marisavljevic reported Nila Armstrong, streams and trails specialist, retired in May after 26 years in the DNR. If she was your main contact, please now contact Marisavljevic or Dale Brier. Jay Keith, grants coordinator, will retire in July after 16 years with the DNR. Please contact Bob Bronson or Lisa Herber going forward.

Old Business

National Trails Day

Fetterer reported that the Hoosier Mountain Bike Association (HMBA) had work days on Saturday and Sunday for NTD. The group completed about a mile of new mountain bike trail in Yellowwood State Forest (YSF). Angie Pool stated the Cardinal Greenways had their first NTD event this year. In Muncie, they held a 5k race, a trail clean up, and volunteer picnic. Grant County had a bike ride and Richmond had a triathlon. She also reported many NTD events were held in Fort Wayne. Pat Martin reported that the Hawthorn Half Day Relay and Ultra was held in Terre Haute the following weekend. It was registered as a NTD event and had about 150-200 participants. Garrett stated that Redbird SRA hosted their first wedding in June. The wedding had a large turnout of guests in jeeps and that it was covered on the local

news. Marisavljevic said that about 20 events were held in total around the state in a variety of locations with a number of organized activities. She noted minus some inclement weather, NTD was again successful this year.

New Business

CRT 2016 Achievement Award for Outstanding Trails Advisory Committee

Fetterer congratulated the TAB on winning the Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT) 2016 Annual Achievement Award for Outstanding Trails Advisory Committee. He then thanked Martin for representing the TAB at the CRT award reception on June 8 in Washington, DC. Martin reported that ten projects were recognized nationally at the ceremony, including our own award which was featured last. He noted that the reception was very nice and that an eloquent statement was given during our award presentation. Tim Calahan suggested that the TAB members dress up for the December meeting to get an official picture with the award. Martin requested that the DNR and Division of Outdoor Recreation Directors be invited for the picture.

2016 RTP Grants

Bob Bronson introduced himself and the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant program. He announced this year Indiana had \$1.34 million in RTP grant funding to award because a former grant recipient returned their funding to be reallocated. RTP funding is used for motorized and non-motorized trail projects, trail education projects, and administrative costs. Bronson stated 10 applicants applied for the RTP funding available for non-motorized trail projects and five projects could be funded. He passed out a list of the applicants as well as the recommended list of projects after scoring and feedback from Director Clark (see Appendix). He briefly explained the recommended projects and answered questions. He also further expanded what types of projects could use the education funding, citing the Dirt Bike School Train the Trainer program as an example. Fetterer asked if the funding could be used for the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) instructor certification program. Bronson replied that if the instructors have a focus on safety and/or education it could be eligible. He encouraged anyone with ideas for projects next year to contact him. Bronson then asked for the TAB's approval of the 2016 recommended RTP Grant Awards and Fetterer requested a motion to approve. Martin made a motion and Pool seconded. Motion passed. Fetterer signed the official approval document.

Other Business

Tim Calahan asked Marisavljevic about the status of new Knobstone Trail maps. She replied that they have been sent off to the printer and should be delivered very soon. Donald Sporleder announced that the Huck Finn Float will be June 25 and Paddlefest 2016 will be June 26. Both will be on the St. Joseph River in South Bend.

Rayce Guthrie stated the Lawrence County Recreational Park will be the host of the September 1 TAB meeting. ABATE manages the 400 acre motorized park with 60 miles of trail. He will work to try to arrange some UTVs so that everyone can tour the property, but those with their own vehicles are welcome to bring them. The meeting will be held in their amphitheater. Camping is also available for those who are interested, however hotels are also located nearby in Bloomington and Bedford.

User Group Reports

All –Terrain Vehicles- Garrett reported he attended the Redbird SRA customer appreciation day. He said the DNR staff worked well with user and community groups to make this a successful event. In addition to off-roading, a live band played for the 300-400 vehicles that attended. He also mentioned that the new annual Motorized Trail User Permits have been well received by the motorized community.

Bicyclists – Jessica Hall again reminded the TAB about the Indiana Bike/Walk Summit. Bicycle Indiana is organizing the event with Health By Design. It will be August 29-31 at the Omni in Indianapolis.

Environmental Groups – Hardie thanked everyone who paddled this afternoon. He stated that Leinenkugel will host their Canoe for a Cause, a paddle and clean up, on the St. Joseph River in Fort Wayne on June 24. Canoe for a Cause will also come to Indianapolis in August. Also in Indianapolis, a local initiative called Reconnecting to our Waterways has been making efforts to engage more diverse communities with interactive activities focusing on the importance of local waterways. The Mounds Greenways should release their economic impact study soon. Hardie suggested getting an update on this study and meeting Carolene Mays-Medley, the new White River State Park Executive Director, at the TAB meeting in December.

Equestrians – No report

Four-Wheel-Drive Users – Ryan Sweany stated that the Evansville Area Jeeps hosted Wheelin' for a Cause, their annual fundraiser benefitting cystic fibrosis, at Interlake SRA on May 28. In addition to off-roading, the event also had live music, bounce houses, food, and vendors. The event had 850-1000 4x4 vehicles and raised \$20,000. Sweany mentioned that Redbird and Interlake held their customer appreciation days on June 18 and 19. Hi-Lift Day will be August 20 at Redbird.

Health/Higher Education- Cook stated that the Indiana Bike/ Walk Summit will feature workshops, educational sessions, and receptions. Cook also announced that the Department of Interior named Indianapolis as one of its 50 cities for the Let's Move Outside initiative. The program helps provide youth outdoor recreation opportunities and programs in Indy Parks that the city would have not been able to afford otherwise. Indy Groundworks is also involved in the project. A summit regarding this initiative will happen this fall.

Hikers- Tim Calahan reported that he received a concerning letter in the mail from Indiana Hardwood Lumbermen's Association regarding DNR State Forestry practices. The letter looks to counter recent anti-logging sentiment. In it asks him to write a letter of support on the current DNR practices to the Indiana General Assembly. He passed out copies of the letter to each board member and encouraged them to provide him with their personal feedback. He noted that both Indiana's long-distance hiking trails, the Knobstone and the Tecumseh Trail, go through Indiana State Forests.

Mountain Bikers – Fetterer stated that 10th Annual Women's Mountain Bike Clinic was held in Brown County State Park (BCSP) June 10-12. The clinic, which again sold out, has been successful in encouraging more women to ride. HMBA has had a number of work days on a new trail in YSF. They hope it and a new trail connection in BCSP will open soon. The trail connection will link the existing trails and campground in BCSP to the new YSF trail and those in Hoosier National Forest. This will help make Brown County even more of a destination for mountain biking. Furthermore, the Bobcat Trail in BCSP should be completed in time for the Brown County Epic, HMBA's annual fundraiser, on October 7-9.

A successful workday was held at Southwestway Park in Indianapolis, which saw participation from mountain bikers, hikers, trail runners, and equestrians. The project widened a section of multi-use trail making it safer. A similar workday with multiple trail users was also held at O'Bannon Woods State Park. The Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) recently opened The Headquarters at Washington Park, a small bike park in Indianapolis. Spearheaded by Officer John Wall, the park is providing opportunities for youth to learn to mountain bike and get active while fostering a positive relationship with IMPD. Griffin Bike Park in Terre Haute continues to have work days in preparation for their Grand Opening on October 15. It includes races, rides, runs, food, and live music. The bike park has received lots of community support thus far.

Off-Road Motorcyclists – Guest Jay Jackson reported that the 23rd Annual Miracle Ride was held June 4 and 5 as a fundraiser for Riley Children's Hospital. ABATE again hosted another successful Miracle Trail Ride at Lawrence County Recreation Park on June 10, 11, and 12. The entire event raised \$250,000 with \$30,000 coming from the trail ride. The motorcycle and ATV community will begin planning soon for the 2017 Legislative Session. Jackson encouraged anyone with interest in dirt bikes to attend Dirt Bike School and visit the ABATE website for more information. Jackson commented that he would like to see a renewed interest in the Tread Lightly principles within the motorized community.

Parks and Recreation Agencies- Jones announced that Indiana Parks and Recreation Association (IPRA) has been utilizing the Google Trekker to capture photos and video of Indiana's trails and parks. Westfield will get the Google Trekker in mid-July. The imagery should be live on google within six months of gathering the data and will allow people to view these natural landscapes from their computer. This will help get people out as well as sharing places with people who would not have access otherwise. Jones sadly announced Steve Waltz, who was with Indy Parks and an active member of IPRA, recently passed away.

Westfield continues to work on their new Grand Junction Park, which will also help restore the Grassy Branch Creek, as well as the Monon Trail and the Midland Trace. Bronson inquired to the status of their trail projects so Jones provided a brief update. Finally, she announced that a Monon Marathon is in the works for June of 2017. It will start in the trails at Grand Park in Westfield and head down the Monon Trail to White River State Park in Indianapolis.

Pedestrians- Martin reported that Terre Haute continues to work on the Turn to the River project, which was inspired by the Year of the River a few years ago. The project will connect and activate downtown through art and design. It will feature two trails, a new

park, and a half mile pedestrian promenade at the center. One of the trails will sit on top on the new combined sewer overflow project. They are currently trying to secure funds for the pedestrian promenade. Martin also announced Terre Haute will be the starting location for the Ride Across Indiana (RAIN). The annual 160 mile bike ride will be July 16 and finish in Richmond.

Snowmobilers- Len Neisler reported that he attended the International Snowmobile Congress (ISC) a few weeks ago in Rapid City, South Dakota. 36 states and providences were represented at ISC, including Indiana. This year, \$2.8 Million was raised for charities and 214,000 volunteer hours donated between the 1,981 snowmobile clubs. A big takeaway from ISC was that the US Forest Service (USFS) has limited resources and a mounting maintenance backload in our National Forests. USFS will attempt to get more volunteer labor from trail and other recreation users to help fill this void going forward. Neisler encouraged others to get involved volunteering with the USFS as well as DNR properties. Finally, he reported that snowmobiling in Yellowstone will be open this year to the public with a new permit system.

Trail Support Groups- Pool stated that the Greenways Foundation (GF) have awarded all of their grant money for the year. New applications will be accepted in January. Funds for the grant program come from the purchase of the GF license plate. The GF continues to work with legislators to get funds in the Trails Maintenance Fund. They are also planning on revamping their annual luncheon to include more workshops and possibly rotating venues around the state. The GF has also launched the Greenways Challenge on social media to encourage people to visit more trails in Indiana. They are promoting it with their maps as well as the DNR's Indiana Trail Finder on their website.

Pool reported that the Cardinal Greenways will help host the new Muncie Bikefest on Aug 12-14. They will again host Walk Indiana on September 10. The trail also received a grant for maintenance funding this year. She also mentioned Muncie is looking into making the water at Prairie Creek Reservoir more accessible. Finally, she reported that the White River Greenway will begin phase five, the last phase of the project, soon. It will include cleaning of a superfund site, a pedestrian bridge, and a canoe/kayak launch.

Users with Disabilities- David Meihls commented that he is glad to see the new accessible canoe/kayak launches constructed as well as a number of other more inclusive outdoor recreation efforts being undertaken across the state. Meihls reported news that Title VI of the 1964 Civil Right Act will now be enforced not only for units of governments, but also their contractors. Title VI prevents discrimination by government agencies that receive federal funding. This means that contractors will also have to comply with ADA as well.

Water Trail Users- Joe Dits reported that the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association (NWIPA) has been busy. They will host an Everglades of the North Paddle on the Kankakee River in July that will showcase the blooming native hibiscus plants of the marshes. NWIPA helped establish the first ADA accessible canoe and kayak launch in Michigan City last fall. They now have successfully championed four more accessible

boat launches in the region that will be completed by the end of the year. They are now working with Valparaiso University to develop Team River Runner program that helps teach and encourage people with disabilities to paddle as well as use the launches. In addition to this, NWIPA also works with Wilderness Inquiry to help get intercity youth on the water with their Canoemobile program. The Department of Interior recently announced the Kankakee River has been designated as a National Water Trail after the efforts of NWIPA and others. NWIPA hopes to invite Department of Interior Secretary Jewell to the area to celebrate this honor and will work on designating the Little Calumet River next.

Announcements

Indiana Bike/Walk Summit- August 29-31, 2016 in Indianapolis, IN

Bike/Ped Trail Network Gathering- November 5, 2016 - Location TBA

International Trails Symposium- May 7-10, 2017 in Dayton, OH

Hoosier Outdoor Experience- June 10-11, 2017 in Fort Harrison State Park, Indianapolis

2016 Meeting Dates

September 1, 2016- Lawrence County Recreation Park, Springville

December 1, 2016- White River State Park, Indianapolis

Adjournment

Fetterer called for motion to adjourn. Pool made a motion and Jones seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:21 PM.